

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USICA FOR EU, VOA

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TAGS: PROP, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS CRITICIZES AMBASSADOR'S VOA INTERVIEW

REF: MOSCOW 7413

1. LITERATURNAYA GAZETA ARTICLE ON WHICH APRIL 11 TASS
PIECE (REFTEL) WAS BASED IS SUBSTANTIALLY AS REPORTED BY
TASS. ARTICLE IS ENTITLED "KOMU ETO NUZHNO?" ("WHO NEEDS
THIS?") IT APPEARED UNDER GENERAL COLUMN HEADING
"REPLIKA" ("REJOINDER" OR "COMMENT") IN BOTTOM RIGHT-HAND
CORNER OF PAGE NINE (THIS IS FIRST PAGE OF LITGAZ'S
SECOND SECTION AND IS THE INVARIABLE LOCATION OF
COMMENTARIES ON AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHER SUBJECTS
ON WHICH LITGAZ SERVES AS AN "UNOFFICIAL" MOUTHPIECE).
ARTICLE WAS SIGNED BY "V. IVANOV".

2. FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF ENTIRE TEXT AS
IT APPEARED IN LITGAZ:
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(BEGIN TEXT) FROM TIMES IMMEMORIAL THE FUNCTIONS OF AN
AMBASSADOR OF ONE COUNTRY (SERVING) IN ANOTHER HAVE
BEEN PRECISELY DEFINED. WE DON'T INTEND TO ENNUMERATE
THEM ALL NOW. WE WILL KEEP TO THE MAIN ONE - TO WORK IN
THE NAME OF STRENGTHENING RELATIONS BETWEEN COUNTRIES
AND TO PROMOTE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THEIR PEOPLES.

THE AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN THE USSR, M. TOON, IS AN EXPERIENCED DIPLOMAT AND HE CLEARLY KNOWS THIS VERY WELL. HE ALSO KNOWS THAT THE USSR AND THE USA HAVE A GOAL WHICH IS FIXED IN A NUMBER OF AGREEMENTS - TO FOLLOW THE PATH OF BETTERING RELATIONS BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES TO CONSTRUCT THESE RELATIONS ON A SOLID AND LONG-TERM BASIS.

HOWEVER, IN AN INTERVIEW BROADCAST BY AN AMERICAN RADIO STATION, M. TOON ALLOWED HIMSELF TO SAY THINGS WHICH ARE FAR FROM SUPPORTATIVE OF THIS GOAL. WHILE ALLEGEDLY TOUCHING ON THE STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE USA, HE IN FACT LET HIMSELF MAKE JUDGMENTS ON THINGS WHICH HAVE NO CONNECTION AT ALL WITH SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS, NOR TO THE ACTIVITY OF AN AMBASSADOR. M. TOON . EVEN ALLOWED HIMSELF TO GIVE THE SOVIET SIDE RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW WE SHOULD DEAL WITH SOVIET CITIZENS IN OUR OWN COUNTRY, WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE ENGAGED IN ACTIVITY INIMICABLE TO SOVIET SOCIETY. HE ALSO REPEATED FABRICATIONS ABOUT A SUPPOSED "MILITARY THREAT" EMANATING FROM THE USSR.

SO THIS IS WHAT THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR COMMENTED ON BEFORE THE MICROPHONE. STRANGE, BUT A FACT. AMONG OTHER THINGS, IT IS STRANGE FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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ACCEPTED NORMS OF CONDUCT FOR DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES. THIS UNUSUAL CONDUCT BY THE AMBASSADOR AMAZED EVEN AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS.

M. TOON IS NOT A PRIVATE CITIZEN. HE IS AN OFFICIAL DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE OF THE USA. SUCH PUBLIC UTTERANCES BY HIM DO NOT FACILITATE THE STRENGTHENING OF TRUST BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES, JUST AS, NO DOUBT, IT WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL IF, LET US SAY, THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN THE USA IN HIS PUBLIC UTTERANCES ALLOWED HIMSELF TO GIVE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES ON MATTERS WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF THE UNITED STATES ITSELF OR IF HE SPREAD UNFOUNDED RUMORS ABOUT THE POLITICS OF THE USA.

M. TOON'S INTERVIEW DOES NOT HELP US TO FOLLOW THE PATH OF BETTERING SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND OF BUILDING THEM ON A SOLID, LONG-TERM BASIS. (END TEXT) TOON

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